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The Good Influence of Immigration

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the United States

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On regard to its increase in population the United States stands alone. No other nation is, nor has there ever been any nation like it in this respect.

There are three modes that have always characterised the manner of the growth of all nations ancient or modern, and ours is the only exception. These three modes of national or national developement may be put thus: first, Individual Growth, for instance Portugal, Ireland, Norway and Sweden, and the extinct Kingdom of Poland. These nations seem to have been formed by the tribes that inhabited the territory they embraced, and

with scarce an exception they have either never passed their primitive bounds, or if so, have receded to them as Portugal, or have been united with some other nation, or have ceased to exist.

The second kind are those which grow by colonization, for example, Phoenicia, Carthage, Greece and Great Britain. The greatness of the growth of these nations, was accomplished in most part by their commercial enterprise. Any of these except England deprived of their colonies and respective capitals would be greatly weakened in power.

The third way in which a nation is developed is the more usual one, and that is growth by conquest.

The history of ancient Egypt, Babylon, Media, Assyria, Persia and Rome, and the modern nations of Turkey, Russia and Spain, up to the summit of their power

and greatness is a history of conquests. These nations were always strong till luxury, anarchy and rebellion set in. They had their excellencies and their defects. They were strong, for it took power to make foreign conquest, and power to maintain their conquered possessions. When they fell it was generally a terrible collapse, for they were organizations composed of various peoples, speaking different languages and these, fritting under the yoke, each pulling a separate way. when the central government became enervated through the very luxury of its conquests, it became not a hard matter for a young and vigorous neighbor to step in and assume complete control.

These modes of the growth of nations, as we have seen, have their superiorities and their defects, either too individual, as the Chinese Empire, too much of a same

ness, or too heterogeneous, as was the enormous compounded and piebald mass of the Persian and Alexandrian Empires.

In neither case could the government long withstand an energetic and aggressive neighbor. But let us now turn to the vast superiority of our government and ascertain what is one of the chief peculiarities to which that superiority is due. It is not my aim to show that the amazing strides of the Republic ~~is~~ alone due to its vast and annually increasing torrents of immigration. That would be a palpable misconception.

There are several things that can be adduced to explain the causes of the country's social and political progress. Preëminent among these is its time tried and unshaken political basis, the influence of immigration, and its position geographically, also its

Also its great natural resources and commercial facilities and others and others which space forbids mentioning.

The second of the two prominent causes is immigration. This like colonization is generally an evidence of civilization. Much of the strength of the British Empire is due to her colonizing and emigrating propensities. Immigration to America began soon after colonization, and at that early time began to manifest its influence on the future history of our nation. From the beginning of the colonial period down to the Revolutionary War, the tide of immigration assisted in giving a permanent character to the colonial period. The oppressed of Europe came for liberty and they found it. They came for what the colonists had and that was liberty. Thus though the peoples of different nations came to one and the same land, their aspirations and strong intentions were of the same

decided turn. And although in a great part the nationality of our ancestors was component. They founded through their one universal and enthusiastic desire for freedom, a strong and consolidated government. Since the Revolutionary war up to the present time, with the exception of a few years, the volume of immigrants to the shores of the Republic has been constantly augmenting. The English element which is more than all the rest put together, forms the backbone to the others. This element coming from the old Anglo-Saxon, the conquering race, gives shape and tone to the rest. Next in order and importance come the Irish, German, French, Swede, Spanish and Chinese elements.

Of what advantage, it has been asked, is it to have this motley mass emited on our shores? We frankly say, it is as much to our advantage as it is a loss

to the countries from which they come. We gain just as much as the immigrant who leaves a poor government for a good one, or a good government for a better. The German restricted at home comes here and finds ample scope for the display of his powers. He is noted for his plodding and persevering industry, his love of individual and social liberty, his aptitude for learning and great natural tact. He adds to this a character of sobriety, honesty and strict integrity. On the whole a valuable acquisition. The Irishman though differing in character is yet important. Those who perform in a great degree our menial labor are the Irish, and although quite a contrast to the more steady German and Swede is still a faithful and reliable citizen. All these nationalities though a heterogeneous mass at first, in time become fused together and form the true born Amer-

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ican. — — The immediate effect of immigration is that it will ever prevent stagnation. It is like fresh new blood poured into an enfeebled body, and has a rejuvenating effect. We should therefore be careful as to the character of our immigration. Some advocate any kind of immigration rather than none at all, and believing this, uphold the coming of the Chinese, which cannot but be injurious. For the individuality of their customs and beliefs is so strong that time, circumstances and the character of our government cannot alter them. And as our government was formed as an asylum for the outcast, and a refuge for the persecuted, and not as a place where foreigners might come, make their fortunes and then carry them to their own lands, we prohibit the landing of the Chinese on our shores. Another phase of politics which we may no-

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tice here, is the Mormon question. This like the former may seem an argument against the good of immigration, for Mormon influx is injurious to the country.

But we may treat them both alike, for in neither is it true immigration. Neither comes with the express intention of becoming a citizen of the United States. The Chinaman comes with the intention of amassing a fortune to return home and die in the land of his father. The Mormon devotee comes on account of unusual and fanatic religious motives.

He belongs to a community, which if it could, would wish to control the government. These two instances are then not in disfavor to immigration for in these cases it is not immigration. An immigrant changes his home for a better with the intention of remaining there in the future.

Through immigration a vast amount of money is brought into the country every year. It has been computed that every immigrant brings with him on an average eighty-five dollars in cash. To this we add what the country derives from railroad transportation. Over five millions of dollars of immigrant tickets were sold in New York alone in 1881. But this is not all, for by careful reckoning it has been computed that the full worth of each immigrant in brain and muscle power, and additional to this his commercial and hereditary intelligence, is equivalent to a capital of one thousand dollars. In 1881, 669,354 immigrants came to this country. According to the above computation they brought with them 720 million dollars, and in actual cash more than 61 million dollars. Immigrants arrive at thirty-three custom districts, a few

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of the most important of which I mention.

In 1880 New York, -----	received	332,425
" Hudson, Mich. -----	"	133,227
" Boston, -----	"	40,517
" Philadelphia, -----	"	27,057
" Baltimore, -----	"	26,470
" San Francisco, -----	"	8,068
" Detroit -----	"	6,263
" Passamaquoddy, Me., -----	"	3,343
" New Orleans, -----	"	3,091
" Buffalo, -----	"	2,289
" Remaining Districts -----	"	10,883
" Total -----	"	593,703

Immigration usually follows periods of busi-

ness activity. War and Panic in Europe increase it, War and Panic in America retard it. In 1848 on the eve of an anticipated European outbreak, Immigration materially increased, whilst in 1860 and 1873 the tide turned the other way. Although many immigrants remain in the large cities and thereby swell the ranks of the vicious classes, by far the greater and better part seek homes in the west and become honorable and thrifty farmers. One of the most important gains resulting from immigration is in the wheat-growing regions, where more than one third of those landed at New York go. The tide of immigration seems to be disposed to stream toward the Southwest, where railroads have networked this part of the country. These regions will gain by being filled with a thrifty foreign element, which

Through industry and character of worth will replace the idle shiftless, half-civilized Mexican and Indian.

But by far the greatest blessing of immigration will be when the tide begins to pour into the Southern States. There, there is an element in whose slumbering bosom the seeds of slavery and rebellion will be fostered as long as they cherish the memory of their fathers. The old rebel element will never have the push which characterized the hated Yankee of the North; and therefore so long as this element is predominant in the South, so long will the South be inferior to the North. We may then with reason conclude that it will be a blessing for the South and the country in general, when the foreigner begins to mingle with the southerner and by directing his mind toward new enterprises counterbalance this rebellious element.

Let us see what effect immigration alone has had upon the increase of population in this country.

In 1790 its population was four millions. The population of 1880, had its growth been by natural increase would have been only fifteen millions. It would have taken this country till 1990 to have had a population of fifty millions without immigration. (Report of 1850)

It thus appears that the population, internal development of agriculture, mining, manufactures, railroads, domestic and foreign trade as well, have more than tripled themselves by the exodus to our land from other countries.

Thus in ninety years we have seen a people of about four millions possessing the territory on the ocean, developed into a Republic that has no equal; having a population of fifty millions; reaching from Atlantic to Pacific and containing riches and re-

sources that are boundless. Its greatness is not the result of Colonization, individual development nor immigration or conquest alone, but of all these combined, by treaties and purchases and above all of the resistless enterprise and energy of its people. Its growth is thus cosmopolitan. It is a compound of the selections of the best of the races believing in the survival of the fittest. It is like the English language which it speaks in its greatest purity.

Does America throwing open her arms to the wronged of every land by so doing injure herself? Is this constantly increasing flood which pours through forty gates an injury? No. The millions of acres of cultivated land, the noble lakes and rivers alive with craft, the smoke from thousands of forges, and above all the happy and peaceful condition of the country disprove it.